

HOUSTON REFUSES LOANS DATA UNTIL COLBY GIVES WORD

Senate Committee Had Requested Correspondence Since Armistice.

'PASSES THE BUCK'
Seeks to Put All Responsibility on His Successor, Is Judiciary View.

'SAFEGUARDING PUBLIC'
Secretary Says State Officials Should First Pass On All Foreign Letters.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
New York Herald Bureau.
Washington, D. C., Feb. 28.

Secretary of the Treasury Houston declined today to furnish the Senate Judiciary Committee with copies of correspondence as to loans made by the United States to France, Italy, Greece and Liberia since the armistice until the Secretary of State has given his permission. The correspondence is at the State Department, and it was made known today that if the making public of any of the correspondence is considered to be "incompatible with the public interest" it will be withheld from the committee.

Mr. Houston's refusal was made known to the committee when it met today and expected to have the correspondence before it and to hear explanations of its purpose from either Secretary Houston or Assistant Secretary Kelly. He sent a letter to the chairman of the committee together with a copy of the letter to the Secretary of State from Mr. Houston explaining the situation.

The meeting became one of indignation rather than investigation, and Senator Reed immediately moved the chairman to be instructed to order Mr. Houston to appear forthwith. Senator Nelson said he thought it was a matter of such grave importance that it should be considered by the full committee, and it was agreed to meet again at 2 o'clock to formulate a decision.

Case of Buck Passing.

Senator Reed said he had been "in too many lawsuits not to know that the action of the Secretary was intended merely to delay the proceedings until he had gone out of office next Friday."

"Apparently the Secretary intends to pass the buck to the Secretary of State," remarked Senator Cummins (Ia.), Republican.

Replying to a suggestion that the committee ask the Secretary of State for the papers, Senator Shields (Tenn.) said: "It is not our duty to go hunting for the Secretary of State. We should call Mr. Houston to account. We should find out how much longer he intends to defy the mandate of a committee in Congress. Mr. Houston should be made to give a full explanation before he leaves office."

Secretary Houston's Letter.

In his letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee Mr. Houston said: "I have had prepared files of copies of the correspondence which I understand Senator Reed desires, and I have asked the Secretary of State to examine them and transmit to the committee as much thereof as in his opinion is not incompatible with the public interest to make public. I venture to suggest that before making public the file which was handed to the committee at the last hour, of the copies of correspondence concerning the loans to Czechoslovakia, the committee submit the same to the Secretary of State for his opinion as to whether there is any portion of it which might be incompatible with the public interest to make public."

The letter which the Secretary of the Treasury sent to Mr. Colby said: "So far as the Treasury is concerned for its own sake, there is no reason whatever why its files should not be made public. The correspondence concerning foreign loans, however, involves the affairs of foreign governments and has to do with our foreign relations with them. In these circumstances it appears proper that the Department of State should have an opportunity to advise the Judiciary Committee whether there is any part of the correspondence for which Senator Reed has asked which it is incompatible with the public interest to make public."

"I have therefore prepared copies of files of correspondence as I understand Senator Reed desires, concerning the loans of France, Greece, Italy and Liberia and hand them to you herewith with the request that you examine them and transmit to the committee as much of the correspondence therein contained as in your opinion it is not incompatible with the public interest to make public."

REVIEW OF RULING SOUGHT ON STATUS OF SHIPS' LIQUOR

Shipping Interests and British Protests Move Treasury to Seek Broader Interpretation From Department of Justice.

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau.
Washington, D. C., Feb. 28.

As a result of protests from the British Government and from shipping interests the Treasury Department has called on the Department of Justice for another review of the application of the Volstead act to liquor in transit through the United States.

The Department of Justice recently held that under the Volstead act a ship with any liquor aboard containing more than one-half of one per cent. of alcohol could not touch at a United States port, even if the liquor was merely in transit and the ship was not destined to this country.

Under the opinion, approved by Acting

Attorney General Nebeker, the Treasury was embarrassed in issuing customs regulations, as under any possible construction of the opinion passenger liners under a foreign flag could not touch at American ports while they had liquor in their saloons.

All liquor has been ruled off American ships, but embarrassing complications are foreseen if efforts are made to apply the rulings to foreign ships. The matter has been under discussion between the British Embassy and the State Department, the Treasury and the Justice Department for several days. The Treasury is in a dilemma. Apparently the only relief lies in a broader construction of the prohibition laws as they may apply to foreign ships.

TARIFF BILL PASSED, VETO IS PREDICTED

Thomas Brands Measure 'Most Infamous Congress Ever Approved.'

Special Despatch to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

New York Herald Bureau.
Washington, D. C., Feb. 28.

By a vote of 43 to 35, practically the same by which the bill was approved February 16, the Senate today agreed to the conference report on the emergency tariff bill, and it was sent to the President for final action. It has been predicted repeatedly by Democrats and fervently hoped by many Republicans that he would veto it.

Senator McCumber (N. D.) was its principal defender today, though he did not attempt any extended reply to the avalanche of Democratic attacks hurled against it.

The minority members had a Democratic field day at the expense of their Republican colleagues, denouncing the bill as a "gold brick to the farmers," "an unspeakable fraud," and similar epithets. Among the Democrats who spoke against it during the four hours debate were Senators Simmons (N. C.), Reed (Mo.), Underwood (Ala.), Hitchcock (Neb.) and Thomas (Col.).

Mr. Underwood developed the argument that it would handicap European nations in paying their debts to this country because of the effect it would have on European markets for American goods, as well as American markets for their goods.

In paying his respects to the emergency tariff bill, Senator Thomas said:

"The Payne-Aldrich bill often has been referred to as an abomination. This bill is a damnation. It is the most infamous measure that has ever received the approval of the American Congress. It will increase the cost of living. Already sugar has increased two cents a pound, which means a daily tax on the consumer of \$106,000. I have some respect for the ordinary robber, for he takes some chances, but for robbery of this sort it presents a contrast between the man of action and the sneak thief."

"I do not know personally whether the President will veto the bill or not. I have heard it said that he would, but I have no means of being sure of it. But if I wished any ill of the Harding Administration, which I do not; if I wished the Republican party harm, which I do not; if the prayers of the rich avail anything, which they never do, I would pray for his approval of this bill; for in the event that it becomes a law, then I say to my Republican brethren, 'Woe unto your administration for the next four years.'"

ALASKA DELEGATE MAY GET \$5,000 A DAY PAY

If Democrat Is Ousted Rival Will Draw Full Salary.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The three-cornered election contest from Alaska, involving the seat now held by George B. Griggs, Democratic delegate, was taken up late today in the House, with indications that Republicans would oust him and seat James Wickereham, Republican.

The debate had not been ended when adjournment was taken until tomorrow, when Griggs will be heard in his own behalf. Wickereham was on the floor, ready to be sworn in if the committee report recommending that he be seated is adopted. In that event he will draw upward of \$5,000 a day until his term ends Friday noon.

In 1918 Charles A. Sulzer, Democrat, was elected by a plurality of 33 votes over Wickereham. He died before the official count was completed, but the Commissioners issued the certificate in his name. Subsequently the Legislature ordered a special election and the canvassing board declared Griggs elected. Wickereham did not run.

The majority report of the election committee, presented by Chairman Towell, held that Sulzer was not duly elected; that Wickereham had won by 27 votes, and that the special election was not necessary, and hence illegal.

FLASH! PUFF! THUS ACTS CONEY BOOZE

Carrier of Bottle Cut, Bruised and Singed—Now in a Cell.

Take it on the word of Savarin Mantelle, temporarily of the Coney Island police station cell block, that the brand of stuff sold on the island nowadays is nothing if not diluted TNT.

Yesterday Mantelle walked through Mermaid avenue, near Sixteenth street, followed only by the eyes of Policeman John Allen of the Coney Island station. As Mantelle, who is a waiter, reached the street crossing a curious thing happened.

First there was a flash of fire and a puff of smoke. His derby rose straight into the air for a dozen feet and the sleeve of his overcoat was blown across the roadway. Policeman Allen, not a dozen feet away, felt a drought lift his right arm. He was dazed forward and when he finally began to realize what was happening he found himself holding firmly to Mantelle's neck.

"What," asked Allen, "was that?" "You said it," Mantelle told him. "You said it out loud, sure? What was it? Dynamite? I bet it is for \$8 a quart from a teller who tells me it's whiskey."

By that time Allen realized Mantelle's hands and left arm were heavily laden with broken glass and that he was a bit singed. He advised him to come to the police station and receive first aid.

"Listen, officer," Mantelle remonstrated. "I'm going to collect damages from the fellow who sold me that bottle, and I'm going to do that fast."

So Allen delayed action and followed Mantelle up to Surf avenue. There the waiter turned into the drug store of Max Davidson at 1334 Surf avenue. Allen heard him demand \$50, he said later. Davidson's clerk, Lailore Ehrlich, put him out and Allen arrested him.

At 5 o'clock last night Federal Agents Kelly and Cohen, provided with warrants issued by United States Commissioner Barquin on information provided by Allen, raided Davidson's drug store and arrested the druggist and the clerk. They said they seized two barrels and five cases of whiskey and a barrel and five gallons cans of alcohol. The druggist was charged with maintaining a nuisance and Ehrlich with selling liquor. Mantelle was merely charged with carrying liquor, but there are persons in Coney Island who wondered last night how the police or anybody expect to convict him when the thing they said he was carrying evaporated in a wild blast.

TOWBOATMEN'S PAY CUT 25 P. C. TO-DAY

See No Danger of Port Tieup at Once

Wage reductions of 25 per cent. in the pay of engineers, mates, pilots and pilots on towboats at Atlantic and Gulf ports and Long Island Sound, announced recently by the Atlantic Coast Towboat Owners Association, are to go into effect today. But retaliatory action by the unions to which the men affected belong awaits a further pronouncement on wages by the towboat owners, to follow a meeting of them on March 2, hence there is no immediate prospect of a port tieup.

Convinced, however, that wage reductions by the towboat owners is but the first gun of a battle by ship slip generally to enforce an open shop in the shipping industry, both coastwise and ocean going, unions representing every branch of marine workers, are banding together to fight. At a meeting held yesterday, according to Thomas B. Healy of the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association, an organization was formed representing 17,000 marine engineers, mates, pilots and radio operators of ships in the port of New York.

NEW PENNSYLVANIA CUT.

CHANDLERBURG, Pa., Feb. 28.—One day notices of suspension were given today to 140 employees of Cumberland Valley Division of Pennsylvania Railroad. The division shops here are thus practically closed and the office forces much reduced.

AUBURN GUARDS SUSPENDED.

AUBURN, N. Y., Feb. 28.—Warden Jennings today suspended two guards in Auburn Prison after investigating the protracted smuggling of contraband into the women's prison by male keepers who had access to the women's institution. Cigarettes and illicit food constituted the chief articles of contraband, and for a long time Matron Daley was unable to discover whence came the smokes and love letters found among the women.

PRICES realized on Swift & Company sales of carcass beef in New York City for week ending Saturday, February 26th, on shipments sold out, ranged from 13.00 cents to 17.00 cents per pound and averaged 15.00 cents per pound.—Ado.

STREET CAR BANDITS TO PRISON FOR LIFE

Jersey Judge Pronounces Sentence Within Sixty Hours After Arrest.

So fast does Jersey justice operate that Martin Shannon and John and Charles Krebs, confessed highwaymen, were on their way to State prison yesterday afternoon to serve terms of from fifty to seventy-five years each, less than sixty hours after they had been arrested in an attempt to hold up a trolley car at Hillside, N. J.

The trio made statements Saturday night admitting participation in nine holdups, for five of which they received the maximum penalty. None of the robbers displayed any emotion when Judge Carlton B. Pierce of Elizabeth pronounced sentence. One of the bandits, who had been wounded, was carried into the courtroom on a stretcher.

"You have gone back into history one hundred years to commit your crimes," Judge Pierce said. The days of highwaymen have passed. In these times of quick communication early arrest is certain. The wonder is that you escaped so long. It was foolish not to see this. Others will be foolish if they fail to see it.

"The law denies citizens the right to carry firearms in self-defense. I think the maximum sentence should be imposed, at hard labor."

Two of the holdups were of trolley cars between Springfield and Summit. The first occurred on December 17 and the second on January 25. On January 29 the bandits robbed six members of an automobile party in Clark township, and on February 5 they robbed seven persons in three automobiles who had attended a dinner party at the Baltusrol Golf Club, near Short Hills.

Robert S. Huse, a lawyer, was shot through the arm in this holdup. The fifth robbery was of three motorists in East Rahway the night of February 15. The rewards, totalling \$1,500, probably will be divided between Deputy Sheriff Schmidt and Police Chief Hopkins of Union county, who arrested the trio in a shack at Kensington, to which they were traced after Schmidt, a passenger in the trolley, had shot Krebs.

2 PATROLMEN ARE INDICTED.
Former Members of Narcotic Squad Accused of Assault.

Two patrolmen, former members of the narcotic squad, Michael F. Judge and Michael C. Erb, were indicted yesterday by the regular Grand Jury on a charge of assault in the first degree and held in \$1,000 bail each by Judge Mulqueen. It is alleged they went into the saloon of Patrick J. Clark, at 315 Third avenue, on October 8 last and beat him with a weapon, the nature of which the indictment does not specify.

After Clark made his complaint Police Commissioner Enright reduced Erb and Judge to patrol duty and recommended an investigation by the District Attorney. The evidence was presented to the Grand Jury by Assistant District Attorney Moses R. Ryttenberg.

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